



Editorial

City Honors Our Editor

Carol Uyeda
Editorial Assistant

The following is an excerpt from a City Council Certificate "Honoring and Commending" HMJ Editor Norman Goldstein MD presented to him by Councilman John Henry Felix in a televised ceremony on July 17, 1998.

"The renowned name of Norman Goldstein has graced countless editions of Who's Who since 1972, including Finance & Industry 1979, Frontier Science & Technology 1982, Cancer Professionals & Facilities 1984, Science & Engineering 1991, Medicine & Health Care 1996, culminating in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in the World 1997.

Norman has dedicated his life to promoting sun-intensity awareness and skin cancer prevention through countless educational outreach programs. A Clinical Professor of Dermatology at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, he has worked on more than 29 research projects and has written over 70 published articles and papers. He wrote the well-read medical educational book entitled The Skin You Live In and co-authored Micropigmentation - State of the Art. He has served on 6 editorial boards for magazines and journals, was twice past President and is a Board Member of the Hawaii Medical Library, Chairman of the Pacific Safe Sun Hawaii Program, and Editor of the Hawaii Medical Journal. He was chosen Hawaii Medical Association Physician of the Year in 1993, and is listed in Hawaii's Top Doctors and Best Doctors in America 1998. Most recently, he was appointed to the Medical Advisory Board and Board of Directors of Hemlock Society USA, and serves on the Governor's Blue-Ribbon Panel for Living and Dying with Dignity."

From the staff of the Hawaii Medical Journal, "Congratulations, Dr Goldstein!" As the City Council Certificate concludes, "Thank you for your display of dedication, commitment toward maintaining the pristine beauty of our 'aina and steadfast aloha for the people of Hawaii Nei. Best wishes for many more successful, rewarding and healthful years ahead."



Letters to the Editor

Timothy C. Jahraus MD and
Edwin M. Montell MD

We have read with interest your comments about Physician Assisted Suicide and your last editorial soliciting comments from the membership.

Physician assisted suicide, as we're sure you know, is nothing new to the 20th century. In ancient Greece and Rome, patients never knew if their physician would heal them or kill them, particularly the less productive members of society, the elderly, the disabled and the sickly infants. It is from this uncertainty that Hippocrates launched a reformation out of which came the oath many of us took on joining the profession. More contemporary thought in this area includes the German medical sentiment favoring euthanasia (c. 1930) and the Dutch experience. An official Dutch government survey revealed that in 8,100 cases in which doctors prescribed lethal overdoses of pain medication 61% of the patients had not consented to their death. Former surgeon general, Dr. C. Everett Koop, in a collaborative effort with Francis Schaeffer 20 years ago wrote about the "slippery slope" on which we are now traveling where abortion on demand leads to euthanasia which lead to infanticide and so on.

As members of the medical profession, we have a sacred duty to preserve life. Each patient we see had immeasurable value and God alone retains sovereignty over life and death. To betray this confidence placed in us by our patients undercuts the foundational trust patients have in us and moves us backwards not ahead. Those particularly at risk in efforts to legalize euthanasia will be the poor, the disabled and the elderly. Euthanasia proponents at present, of course, would not consider extending euthanasia to any but the terminally ill. History teaches us this narrow application of "mercy killing" will eventually be expanded. Recall that only a few short years ago Jack Kevorkian was considered a medical Pariah. Now we openly discuss legalizing euthanasia. Is this progress? We think not.

Our state is known by many as the health state. We would like to continue to engender that image, not to promote DADD or any other euthanasia acronym.

Editors Note:

The Journal welcomes all comments from our members pertaining to the most important medical, legal and moral issue of all time.

Beat Cancer with Common Sense.

- Cut down on fats • Eat more high-fiber foods
- Eat fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins A and C
- Eat less salt-cured and smoked foods. • Drink alcohol moderately



**THERE'S NOTHING
MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD**